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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 25552

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: MAY 12 SESSION

1. CA MET AFTERNOON MAY 12 TO BEGIN REVIEW OF DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW. THROUGHOUT SESSION ABOUT 100 PERSONS PURPORTING TO BE MEMBERS OF CATHOLIC CITIZENS BLOC STOOD OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY ENTRANCE TO PROTEST PROVISION IN ARTICLE 10 (7) WHICH STATES THAT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izzo DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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MUST BE INTRODUCED BY 30 POPULARLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. CA CHAIRMAN PHAN KHAC SUU RECEIVED SEVERAL LEADERS OF THIS GROUP BEFORE THE SESSION BEGAN AND ABOUT 15 OF THEM WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN INSIDE CA TO OBSERVE DEBATE.

2. BEFORE BEGINNING ARTICLE BY ARTICLE REVIEW OF LAW, DRAFTING COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR ANNOUNCED THAT MOTIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED TO AMEND ARTICLE 10 (7), ARTICLE 16 AND ARTICLE 24. IN ADDITION, COMMITTEE HAD NUMBER OF SUGGESTED CHANGES TO OTHER ARTICLES.

3. DEPUTIES VOTED DOWN PROPOSAL BY COMMITTEE THAT PHRASE "WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE" BE DELETED FROM ARTICLE 3. THEY ALSO REJECTED PROPOSAL THAT PHRASE "WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT CHIEF" BE ADDED AFTER "VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE" IN ARTICLE 5 (2).

4. DEPUTIES APPROVED COMMITTEE SUGGESTION THAT FOLLOWING SENTENCE BE ADDED TO PARAGRAPH 3, ARTICLE 9: "IN LOCALITIES WHERE THERE ARE NO MUNICIPAL OR PROVINCIAL COUNCILS, THREE VILLAGE COUNCILLORS WILL BE CHOSEN BY LOT."

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PAGE 3 RUMJIR 25552 C O N F I D E N T I A L
5. DEBATE THEN BEGAN ON ARTICLE 10 (7). CAMBODIAN DEPUTY THACH SUNG ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF HIS NAME FROM MOTION TO AMEND THE ARTICLE BECAUSE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS HAD BEEN ALLOWED INSIDE CA BUILDING TO WATCH DEBATE. SEVERAL OTHER DEPUTIES ALSO DENOUNCED ATTEMPTS "VOTERS CALLING THEMSELVES MEMBERS OF CATHOLIC CITIZENS BLOC" TO PUT PRESSURE ON ASSEMBLY. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE NEVER SERIOUSLY DEBATED AND SUU FINALLY DECIDED TO ADJOURN SESSION UNTIL MORNING MAY 13 SO AS TO ALLOW DEPUTIES TO TAKE DECISION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDERS.
6. AFTER SESSION ADJOURNED DEMONSTRATORS UNFURLED A FEW BANNERS IN FRONT OF CA BUILDING DENOUNCING ARTICLE 10 OF DRAFT LAW. AT ONE POINT, A DEMONSTRATOR BEGAN CHANTING "DOWN WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" AND TOGETHER WITH A HANDFUL OF OTHERS TRIED TO FORCE WAY INTO BUILDING. CIVILIAN AND COMBAT POLICE INTERVENED BUT NOT BEFORE SEVERAL GLASS DOORS BROKEN. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER DAMAGE.
7. COMMENT: PROTEST TODAY IS PART OF CAMPAIGN WHICH APPEARS TO BE GVN INSPIRED AND WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN LOCAL PRESS. GP-3 BUNKER
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